RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 19th August, 2003/28 Sravana, 1925 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

FELICITATIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN ON HIS COMPLETION OF ONE YEAR IN THE OFFICE

सदन के नेता (श्री जसवंत सिंह): माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं आपकी अनुमति से यह कहना चाहता हूं कि आज जो आपकी चेयरमैनशिप का एक साल पूरा हुआ है तो उसके लिए मेरी ओर से, समूचे हाउस की ओर से, मैं आपको बधाई देना चाहूंगा। हाउस में आज जो माननीय सदस्य दुर्भाग्यवश नहीं हैं, उनकी ओर से भी और हम सब की ओर से मैं आपको शुभकामनाएं देना चाहूंगा।

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, we fully associate ourselves with what the hon. Leader of the House has mentioned.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Leader of the House has mentioned.

श्री सभापति: इस सब के लिए आपको बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*381. [The questioner (Shri Ramadhar Kashyap) was absent. For answer *vide* page 31 *infra*.]

Ichampalli and Polavaram irrigation projects

*382. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to execute major irrigation projects such as Ichampalli and Polavaram;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take them up for execution; and

(c) by when they are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Yes, sir. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh in January, 2001 had requested the Central Government for declaring Inchampalli and Pollavaram Projects as National Projects and their implementation by the Union Government. After examining the request, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh was informed in February, 2001 that there was no proposal to treat any such river valley project in the country as a National Project.

Irrigation being a State subject, the responsibility of planning, investigation, funding along with priority execution, operation and maintenance of irrigation projects, including irrigation and flood control Projects primarily rests with the concerned State Government themselves. Inchampalli and Pollavaram Projects involve inter-State aspects and their completion depend upon the resolution of inter-State issues between the riparian States.

DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Sir, the hon. Minister has, in his reply, stated that Ichamapalli and Polavaram projects in Andhra Pradesh cannot be taken up as National Projects as 'Irrigation' is a State Subject. Sir, I would like to know why the Government of India couldn't declare Ichampalli and Polavaram Projects as National Projects when the Damodar Valley Project, catering only to the State of West Bengal, had been declared as a National Project.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, the first step in the implementation of such a project is its clearance by the Central Water Commission; then, there has to be the investment clearance. There are so many processes involved before any project is taken up for implementation. Ichampalli and Polavaram projects are inter-State projects. Unless all the States involved in the case of Polavaram project, the States of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh and, in the case of Ichampalli project, the States of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh - agree on the implementation of these projects, these projects cannot be taken up. So, the first step is that of an agreement between the States, because these are all inter-State projects. Unfortunately, for example, Chhattisgarh is very much against the implementation of these projects. All the riparian States are not agreeable on the implementation of these projects. So, at this juncture, these cannot be considered.

DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Sir, my second supplementary is this. In view of the calamitous conditions and the wastage of huge water resources, why can't the Government of India take up these projects as National Projects, as a special case?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, I have already stated that the first step in the implementation of any such project is that all the riparian States involved should agree because there involve submergence of certain areas in these States. So many differences are there amongst the States. That is why these could not be considered for implementation, what to talk of declaring them as National Projects.

DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: You can iron out these differences.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri C. Ramachandraiah.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, 'Water' is a State subject. But 'Inter-State Water Dispute' is a Central Subject. Now, these two projects have been proposed on the River Godavari. For the past one month, more than 800 TMC of water has flown into the sea because no project has been constructed there. It is true that it is an Inter-State water dispute. My question is this. Why don't you take it up with the other States and try to sort out the problem, because any project would involve submergence of certain areas, whether in this State or that State? Why doesn't the Government of India take the initiative? Now, you are planning to link the rivers. If you are not able to solve the inter-State water dispute, how are you going to link it? My request is - our C.M. has also requested - that you start this linkage with the South first, with Andhra Pradesh. Because of the paucity of funds, we are unable to take up the projects. You consider some mechanism by which these projects can be financed and executed so that the farmers can be benefited, national wealth can be generated and the Government can provide employment to the rural poor. The Government will get revenue also.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, exactly, we have convened three meetings at the officers' level to iron out the differences. The first meeting was held on 11.8.2000, the second meeting was held on 16.1.2001 and the third meeting was held on 25.5.2001. These three meetings were held at the officers' level. Here also, they could not arrive at a conclusion or iron out the differences. As a result, I have requested the hon. Chief Ministers of these States to have a meeting. Unfortunately, the Government

of Chhattisgarh did not agree to have this meeting. On one plea or the other, he has avoided it. We are again trying to have this kind of a meeting to iron out the differences. I agree that this is a national wastage. Certainly, we have power, the Central Government has power to some extent, but, at the same time, in a federal structure we have to carry the States with us. We are trying our best. But, unfortunately, till date no concrete result has been achieved. However, our effort is still on.

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think you for allowing me to put my question. Sir, this issue was also raised in 1994 when I entered this august House for the first time. At that time, Shri P.V. Narasimha Raoji who hails from Andhra Pradesh, was the Prime Minister. I raised this question and requested him, "You take up Ichampalli and Polavaram as national projects as you have been elected from Andhra Pradesh and you have been elected with the Telugu Desam Party not fielding its candidate." We all supported him unanimously for the first time when late Shri N.T. Rama Rao gave a green signal. I said to Shri Narasimha Raoji, "Will you kindly take up these as national projects?" At that time, when I raised this question, Shri P.V. Narasimha Raoji was very positive. Now, Sir, the hon. Minister has said that he has convened three meetings at the officers' level. I request that the Prime Minister should convene a meeting of the three Chief Ministers and take up this issue. Sir, once, Andhra Pradesh was a rice bowl of this country. Today it has become a begging bowl. Kindly consider all these aspects. Sir, through you, I request the hon. Minister to convene a meeting. ...(*Interruptions*).. I would like to know whether he will do it.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, I have stated I have convened such a meeting twice. Again I am trying to convene a meeting so that the differences can be ironed out and wastage of time may not be there. I will certainly follow it up. ...(*Interruptions*)..

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, the issue is, you are unable to solve the problem. How are you going to link the rivers? That is my question. How are you going to link the rivers when you are not able to solve the inter-State water dispute?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, as I have already stated, certainly, we do not want to impose something on the States because in a federal structure we are to take the States with us. ...(*Interruptions*)..

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, Andhra Pradesh is a lower riparian State. A lot of water is going into the sea. I want to know from the hon. Minister, - I want to ask directly, that when they are not in a position to take up these national projects, - how many projects have been fully funded by the Government of India in various States. Is there any possibility of giving money to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for constructing these two projects?

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, when these projects will be cleared for implementation, all these things will be considered.

SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Mr. Chairman, Sir, very little water is being harnessed in the Godavari. Only 22 per cent of the water is being harnessed. It is still going waste into the sea. I would like to request the hon. Minister to reconsider the proposal for taking it up as a national project.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Sir, we are very much keen to implement it. The moment the differences are ironed out, we will, certainly, consider it.

जनजातीय क्षेत्रों में सिंचाई परियोजनाओं के लिए धन

*383. **श्री अभय कांत प्रसाद: क्या जल संसाधन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:**

(क) क्या सरकार ने जनजातीय क्षेत्रों में सिंचाई कार्यों की समीक्षा की है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उसके कारण क्या हैं;

(घ) इन क्षेत्रों में सिंचाई संबंधी विकास कार्य शुरू करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं; और

(ङ) जनजातीय क्षेत्रों में सिंचाई परियोजनाओं के विकास के लिए राज्यवार विशेषत: झारखंड को कितनी धनराशि आबंटित की गई?

जल संसाधन मंत्री (श्री अर्जुन चरण सेठी): (क) से (ङ) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।